



Literacy Links

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Monthly E-Newsletter of Maine Reading First

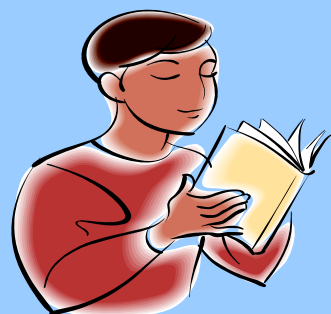
Spotlight on...

DIBELS



"Scientific evidence has taught us that reading must be taught—directly and systematically—and that children most at risk require the most instruction with the best-prepared teachers."

Cathy Collins Block and Susan Israel, Reading First and Beyond, 2005



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (or DIBELS) refers to an assessment tool used to measure the critical skills predictive of reading success. There are 7 separate tasks within DIBELS which measure student progress in the 5 essential elements of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension). DIBELS is based on the theory of automaticity so the DIBELS tasks are brief and timed, but powerful. In addition to understanding the critical skills predictive of efficient reading, students should be able to apply these skills automatically and fluently which is what DIBELS assesses.

The 7 tasks of DIBELS and the essential element of reading which the task measures are listed in the table below:

DIBELS Task	Essential Element of Reading
Initial Sound Fluency (ISF)	phonemic awareness
Letter Naming Fluency (LNF)	phonics
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (PSF)	phonemic awareness
Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF)	phonics
Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)	fluency
Retell Fluency (RTF)	comprehension
Word Use Fluency (WUF)	vocabulary

DIBELS is designed to be administered 3 times a year at points referred to as 'benchmark assessments'. In addition to these benchmark periods, DIBELS can also be used to measure progress at other times, especially for students who may struggle in specific areas. Additional materials are available for 'progress monitoring' as these assessments may occur frequently for some students. The information gathered from either the benchmark or progress monitoring DIBELS assessments should be used to inform instruction.

There are recommended grade levels within the K-3 span for when each of these tasks should be administered. Grade-appropriate materials have recently become available for administering the Oral Reading Fluency and Retell Fluency tasks with students in grades 4-6.

For a small fee, schools who administer the DIBELS assessment can enter student data on the DIBELS website and then access the numerous reports which illustrate student progress at the classroom, school, and District levels.

Maine Reading First will be hosting informational sessions on DIBELS on March 6 and 7, 2006. Stay tuned to the February edition of *Literacy Links* for more details about these sessions.

Additional information about DIBELS can be found at <http://dibels.uoregon.edu>. DIBELS materials can be ordered from Sopris West at <http://www.sopriswest.com>

Upcoming Events

February 10~
Maine Reading First
Grant Intents to
Apply Due

March 2~
Maine Reading First
Statewide
Conference:
Exploring Vocabulary
and Comprehension
Instruction in Grades
K-3

March 6 and 7~
Maine Reading First
DIBELS
Informational
Sessions

March 10~
Maine Reading First
Grant Applications
Due



Description of Instructional Idea...

Bingo

A grid (similar to the one below) can be created as a bingo board and used to teach and reinforce a wide variety of literacy concepts.

Bingo boards can be filled in with letters, word family chunks, vowel patterns, high frequency words, or vocabulary words depending on the focus of the lesson and the needs of the students. After modeling by the teacher and opportunities for guided practice, bingo games can be used as literacy centers for students to practice independently.

Summary of Professional Literacy Text...

Reading First and Beyond:

The Complete Guide for Teachers and Literacy Coaches

Cathy Collins Block and Susan Israel collaborated to author this professional resource for teachers. Reading First and Beyond: The Complete Guide for Teachers and Literacy Coaches shares details of the scientific research for each of the essential elements of reading and translates what this research looks like for classroom instruction. In addition to including an explanation of the research and ideas for lessons within each chapter, suggestions for working with students who struggle, excel, or are learning English also appear. The authors have also included chapters on oral language, independent reading and shared reading, writing, metacognition, and ways to include parents.

Corwin Press published Reading First and Beyond in 2005 and the ISBN is 1-4129-1497-3.

Children's Literature Title...

AA is for Aardvark: Double the Letters!

Double the Fun!

written by Mark Shulman and illustrated by Tamara Petrosino

This uniquely fun alphabet book shows children how many words have double letters. In addition to identifying the words with double letters for each letter of the alphabet, children will also be delighted in trying to discover all of the words tucked in the illustrations which have the target double letter. Did you know that "FF is for fluffy waffles" and "LL is for a frilly yellow pillow"? Share this new book with your students and learn many other words with double letters.

AA is for Aardvark was published by Sterling Publishing Company in 2005. The ISBN is 1-4027-2871-9.

"Those who accept the responsibility for teaching children to read understand that it includes a commitment to continually search for more effective ways to help children gain competence in this very important skill."

Learning Point Associates, Reading First: A Closer Look at the Five Essential Components of Effective Reading Instruction, 2004

News from Maine Reading First...

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the third round of Maine Reading First sub-grants has been released. The list of eligible LEAs and the RFP with its accompanying materials can be accessed at the Maine Reading First website at <http://www.maine.gov/education/rf/homepage.htm>

Maine Reading First is planning a statewide conference which will focus on comprehension and vocabulary instruction in Grades K-3. This event with Karen Burke, a former assistant superintendent from Maine and now a consultant with Scholastic, Inc., will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2006 at the Waterville Elks Lodge. More information and the registration form for this conference is attached to this edition of *Literacy Links*.

Check it out...

There is an interactive and fun website which engages readers in the joys of reading. <http://www.starfall.com> includes reading materials sorted for different levels of readers, from those just beginning to explore print up to those who read independently. Users can request that the site reads the materials to them or they can read it themselves. A wide variety of materials is available on this site including nonfiction, books which focus on word family chunks, and reader's theater scripts.



For additional information about any of the items in this newsletter or to sign up to receive this e-newsletter, please email janet.trembly@maine.gov

Click here to view the Maine Reading First website
<http://www.maine.gov/education/rf/homepage.htm>